

Remarks

The claims have been amended to cancel claims 13-18 without prejudice. The subject matter of those claims is being pursued in the divisional application filed concurrently. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In response to the outstanding Restriction Requirement from the above mentioned Office Action, Applicants respectfully inform the Examiner of the presence of two substantive typographical errors in the Restriction Requirement. Groups IV and V are respectively directed to claims 14-18 and claim 19. It is respectfully submitted that only 18 claims were filed in the application. Second, claim 6a is not included in any of the groups defined by the Examiner.

To facilitate prosecution of the instant application, the Applicants have inferred the intended meaning of the text of the Requirement as follows: 1) Group IV is inferred to comprise Claims 14-17 while group V is inferred to comprise claim 18; 2) claim 6a is inferred to belong in group I. The remainder of this response is predicated on these two inferences; therefore, if one or both of the inferences is incorrect in any way, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the below signed attorney or issue a corrected Restriction Requirement, resetting the period for Response.

Applicant herein provisionally elects group II (Claims 7-12) with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination of group II and group I would place no undue burden on the Examiner. The remaining three groups are now being pursued in a divisional application. The classification of the two remaining groups is to the same class, class 536. Based on the identical classification of class, Applicants respectfully contend that a complete search of groups II and I would be no more burdensome than the corresponding search of group II alone. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Restriction Requirement be modified and that groups II and I be examined together.

The election made herein is made solely to expedite prosecution. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute groups not elected herein in other patent applications claiming the benefit of the filing date of this application. Furthermore, the Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, they will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional groups (as defined in the Restriction Requirement) which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. See 37 CFR 1.141.

The Applicants believe that all fees due in connection with the filing of this Response are included herewith. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit to our Deposit Account, No. 06-1448, any additional fees due or overpayment thereof, respectively, in connection with the filing of this Response.

If there are any questions regarding this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (617) 832-1216.

Respectfully submitted,



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